

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 772

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ELTN, GE, GW, WB

SUBJECT: GDR PROPOSAL FOR JOINT COMPANY TO
OPERATE S-BAHN IN WEST BERLIN

1. KUNZE OF SENAT CHANCELLERY INFORMED MISOFF THAT HE WAS VISITED SEVERAL WEEKS AGO BY DR. WOLFGANG SEIFFERT, GDR PROF AT INSTITUTE FOR POLICIAL SCIENCE AND LAW AT BABELSBERG. SEIFFERT, WHO IS SAID TO BE CLOSE TO HONECKER FROM FDG DAYS, AND TRAVELS EXTENSIVELY FOR GDR WITHIN FRG AS WELL AS EASTERN EUROPE. TOLD KUNZE HE HAD BEEN CHARGED (BY CHOM WAS NOT CLEAR) WITH PREPARING MEMO ON FUTURE ORGANIZATION OF S-BAHN IN WEST BERLIN AS WELL AS WITH MECHANISM TO OPERATE TELTOW CANAL WHEN IT IS REOPENED. IN CONTRAST TO GDR GOVT NEGOTIATORS, SEIFFERT WAS OPEN AND READY TO DISCUSS WIDE VARIETY OF QUESTIONS.

2. SEIFFERT FOATED SUGGESTION THAT JOINT COMPANY BE ESTABLISHED TO OPERATE S-BAHN IN WEST BERLIN, MAKING CLEAR, AS DID KUNZE, THAT QUESTIONS OF SOVEREIGNTY AND OWERSHIP WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED
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BY SUCH ARRANGEMENT. IN RETURN FOR THIS GDR "CONCESSION" SENAT

WOULD INVEST NECESSARY FUNDS INTO MODERNIZING AGAING S-BAHN PLANT.
AS KUNZE DESCRIBED SCHEME, SOME WEST BERLIN BODY LIKE BVG (WHICH
OPERATES WEST BERLIN BUSES) WOULD JOIN FORCES WITH
REICHSBAHN, EACH SIDE SUPPLYING ONE DIRECTOR.

3. KUNZE WAS OBVIOUSLY TAKEN WITH PROPOSAL. HE
SUGGESTED TIME MIGHT JUST BE RIPE TO PUT END TO THREE
DECADES OF SQUABBLING ABOUT S-BAHN OPERATIONS BY
ARRANGEMENT WHICH WOULD PERMIT WEST BERLIN POLICE TO
ENTER-S-BAHN WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE AND WHICH WOULD
RESULT IN IMPROVED TRANSPORTATION IN WEST BERLIN.
KUNZE COMPARED S-BAHN PROBLEM TO STEINSTUECKEN
EXCLAVE, SOLUTION TO WHICH HAD FINALLY BEEN FOUND
DURING QA NEGOTIATIONS. KUNZE BELIEVED SEIFFERT
PROPOAL REFLECTED GENERAL GDR WILLINGNESS TO MAKE
VERY MINOR POLITICAL CONCESSIONS IN RETURN FOR
SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNTS OF MONEY. PURPOSE OF REEXAMINING
S-BAHN OPERATION WAS TO REDUCE HEAVY COSTS TO GDR OF
UNPROFITABLE OPERATION.

4. KUNZE AND SEIFFERT HAVE AGREED TO MEET AGAIN IN
ABOUT "FOUR TO SIX WEEKS." IN MEANTIME, KUNZE
SUGGESTED ALLIES ASK HERZ FOR FULL BRIEFING ON
PROPOSAL (POSSIBLY TO ECONOMIC ADVISERS). HE
NOTED MITDANK HAD ALLUDED TO PROPOSAL IN HIS
MEETING WITH KUNZE, APPARENTLY WITHOUT KNOWING
SEIFFERT HAD ALREADY PROVIDED DETAILS. WHEN SIEFFERT
ASKED WHEN PRELIMINARY TALKS MIGHT BEGIN ON HIS IDEA,
KUNZE REPLIED NOT BEFORE JULY 1 AT EARLIEST.

5. COMMENT: THERE ARE OBVIOUS HOOKERS IN GDR PROPOSAL,
AND WE ARE NOT AS SANGUINE AS KUNZE THAT GDR MOTIVATED
PURELY BY FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS IN PROPOSING ARRANGMENT.
WE INTEND TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON SUGGESTION HERZ BE ASKED FOR
FULL BRIEFING AFTER WHICH WE WILL ATTEMPT TO COME UP WITH
ALLIED RECOMMENDATIONS.GEORGE

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